

LETHBRIDGE POLICE SERVICE

Subject Behavior Officer Response Report 2020



Presented by: Sgt. Semenuik
Prepared by: Robyn Kereliuk
LPS Training Unit

Courage. Safety. Service.

Reporting

Lethbridge Police Service (LPS) completes an analysis and review of all Subject Behaviour Officer Response (SBOR) reports to determine any trends or patterns that may impact training needs, equipment requirements, and any changes to the service policy or procedures.

Lethbridge Police Service policy requires:

- ▣ A Subject Behaviour Officer Response (SBOR) Report be completed when force is used as outlined in policy.
- ▣ The report is reviewed by:
 - The officer's Immediate Supervisor
 - The officer's Staff Sergeant
 - Member of the Training Unit
 - Sergeant i/c of Training Unit
 - Staff Sergeant for Support Services & Divisional Inspector

When is a Report Required?

- ❑ Any use of force other than cooperative handcuffing and escort techniques.
- ❑ Any incident involving the use of force that results in injury to the officer, subject or bystander that requires medical intervention beyond assessment.
- ❑ Any tactical display of a firearm or Conductive Energy Weapon (CEW) where a subject is present.
- ❑ Accidental discharge of a firearm or CEW.

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2019/2020 Comparison Statistics

In 2020, 99% of the calls for service were resolved by officers WITHOUT ANY USE OF FORCE.

- ❑ Members are trained in verbal communication, use of force techniques, incident assessment, threat identification, disengagement and de-escalation
- ❑ Officers are committed to their training as mentioned above, this is the reason why there is a low percentage of use of force required to be used by officers.
- ❑ Reasonable Officer Response (ROR) is the framework for officer decision-making.
- ❑ Members generally receive 25 hours of training per year for control tactics and firearms. In 2020, this was reduced due to COVID restrictions and members received 16 hours of training in control tactics and firearms.

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SBOR Reports & Calls For Service

Number of:	2017	2018	2019	2020	Comparison 2019-2020
SBOR	130	131	143	196	53 (27%)
Calls for Service	33,643	34,610	35,993	36,667	674 (1.8%)

In 2020, the percentage of Use of Force Reports range by month January - December as 0.001-0.007% compared to calls for service by month. For example, there were 12 Use of Force reports in January and 2,858 calls for service, therefor the percentage of use of force vs. calls for service is 0.004%. VIT reporting is a new statistic added in 2019 and accounts for a percentage of the increase in the 2020 Use of Force Reports.

These numbers and percentages only represents calls for service and does not represent the actual number of times officers interact with the public without any recorded events which would be much higher than the calls for service.

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Increase in SBOR Reports

Decrease in custodial arrests:

In 2020 there were 1,378 custodial arrests while in 2019 there were 2,640. There were also release order changes brought about by changes to the Criminal Code in December 2019. To summarize the impact:

- Type of charges greatly expanded for Undertaking/APN release.
- Greater discretion to impose conditions
- Can impose no payment obligation
- With respect to breaches it is not mandatory to have a bail hearing, officers can now release.
- Due to COVID there were discretionary releases Provincially and Federally. More subjects released means more offenders in the community.

COVID changes: COVID brought about several operational changes resulting in additional officers on the street.

Vehicle Intervention Technique (VIT): training was implemented in Fall 2019 as a new training initiative. VIT is a maneuver used by an officer that is intended to prevent a subject from fleeing, or prevent or terminate a pursuit. VIT includes Blockades, Boxing-in and Pinning maneuvers. In many cases a SBOR is completed due to the fact that VIT'S usually involve some type of force. In 2020, 46% of VIT's had a corresponding Use of Force report. There were 37 VIT's and 17 required SBOR reports.

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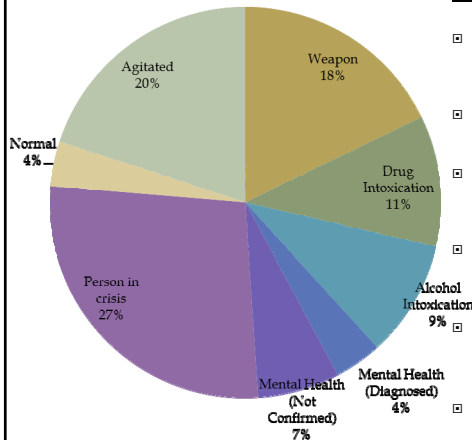
Police Agency Use of Force Comparison

Police Service	Use of Force Reports (SBOR)	Calls for Service	Percentage of Use of Force vs Calls for Service	CALEA
LETHBRIDGE, AB (2020)	196	36,667	.53%	Yes
WINNIPEG, MN (2020)	742	241,795	.31%	Yes
CORNWALL, ON (2020)	36	19,473	.18%	Yes
DELTA, BC (2020)	145* *Files, not SBOR reports	26,678	.54%	No

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Perceived Mental Condition/Factors

In 2020

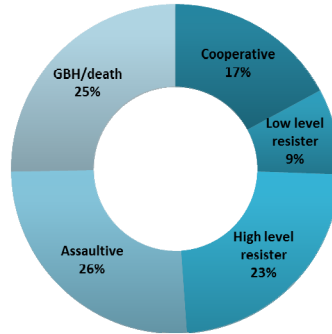
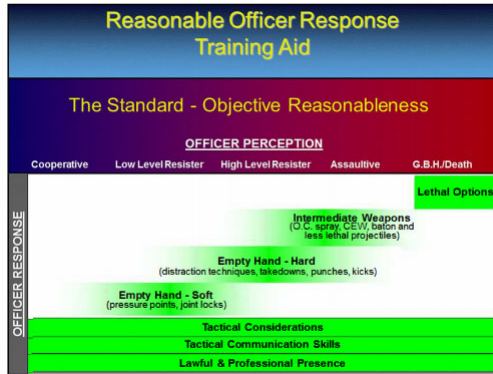


- 40% of the subjects that officers were required to apply force were perceived as being agitated and/or intoxicated by drugs/alcohol.
- 4% of the subjects encountered were perceived to be in a normal mental state.
- 11% of the subjects encountered were either diagnosed or not confirmed diagnosed, but believed to be suffering from a mental illness.
- 27% of the subjects encountered were in a state of crisis at the time.
- 18% of subjects had access to weapon(s) or weapons were reported to dispatch and were considered prior to attending call
- In order for successful outcomes when dealing with persons in Mental Health crisis our members are provided with ongoing training, tools and support. Ongoing training is provided in topics such as mental health, de-escalation techniques and community programs through in-service training, roll call and Power DMS.

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Officer perception of behavior

In 2020, officers perceived 74% of subjects to be a high level resister, assaultive, or GBH/Death. Only 26% of subjects were perceived to be cooperative or a low level resister indicated in the Reasonable Officer Response (ROR) Use of Force Model.

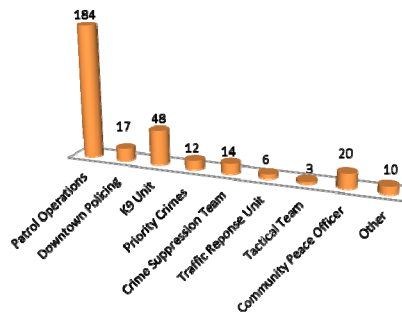


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Police Units Involved

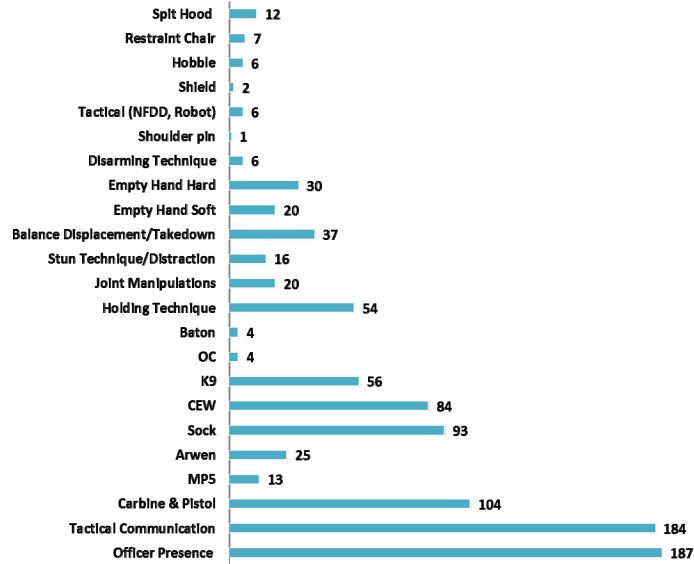
Police Units most frequently involved are:

- ❖ In relationship to Patrol Operations, 59% of the occurrences requiring officers to use force involved those areas of the Service that are considered "first responders." Behind Patrol Operations, the top 3 Units responding were K9 (15%), Community Peace Officer (6%), and Downtown Policing (5%). The remaining occurrences (15%) involved specialty units.
- ❖ Addition of Community Peace Officer (CPO) and Crime Suppression Team (CST). In 2020 Use of Force reporting began entering statistics for Community Peace Officers who responded to 20 occurrences involving force. The Crime Suppression Team (CST) was implemented in 2020 and was involved in 14 occurrences.



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Type of Force Applied



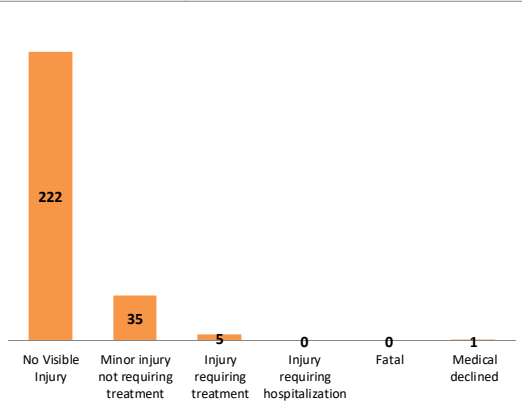
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Use of Force Breakdown

Type of force	Drawn	Low ready	Pointed	Deployed subject	Deployed window	Total
Carbine	n/a	17	6	0	0	23
Pistol	n/a	59	22	0	0	81
MP5	n/a	7	6	0	0	13
Shotgun LLP Sock	n/a	59	29	4	1	93
Arwen	n/a	17	8	0	0	25
CEW	41	n/a	36	7	n/a	84
OC	1	n/a	n/a	3	n/a	4
Baton	3	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	4

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Subject & Third Party Injuries



Subject Injuries

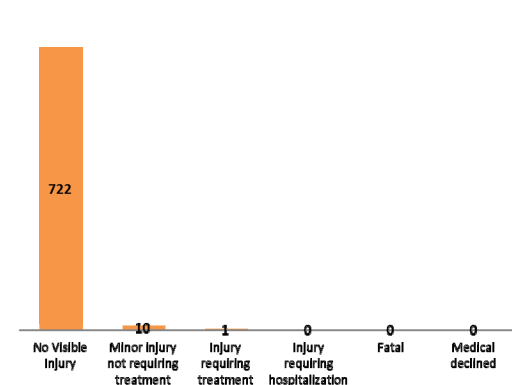
- ❖ In 2020, 263 subjects were documented in Use of Force Reports. Of those subjects, 222 (84.4%) were not injured, 35 (13.3%) suffered minor injuries not requiring treatment, 5 (1.9%) suffered injury requiring treatment. One subject (0.4%) declined medical assistance. There were no injuries requiring hospitalization or fatalities.
- ❖ Minor injuries due to the application of force include: abrasions, cuts, scrapes, taser probe marks, bloody nose/lips, bruising, swelling to face, sock round impact, K9 bite, minor concussion, OC deployment.
- ❖ Injury requiring treatment includes: sock round impact, dog bites, minor concussion/bloody nose and a facial laceration requiring stitches.

Third Party Injuries

There was one third party injury in 2020. The injury was minor, not requiring treatment and the third party (bystander) sustained minor cut to their finger. Bystander was assisting security officers prior to CPO arrival.

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Officer Injuries



Officer Injuries

- ❖ In 2020, 733 officers were documented in Use of Force Reports. Of those subjects, 722 (98.5%) were not injured, 10 (1.4%) suffered minor injuries not requiring treatment, 1 (0.1%) suffered injuries requiring treatment. There were no hospitalizations or fatalities.
- ❖ Minor injuries due to the application of force include: cuts, bruises, soreness, sprained back, sprained wrist, swollen knuckles, bodily fluid exposure.
- ❖ Injury requiring treatment includes: sprained hand and bodily fluid exposure.

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Assault Peace Officer

Officers Assaulted

In 2020 there were 44 occurrences where 54 officers were assaulted by subjects. In comparison in 2019, there were 25 occurrences where 34 officers were assaulted by subjects.

Of these incidents, 13 occurred during first contact, 28 occurred during subject arrest, and 3 occurred while the subject was attempting to flee.

Officers were assaulted during arrest by way of: punching, wrestling, swinging arms, hitting with a metal bar, grappling during arrest, pointing air gun, hitting in the face, attempting to hit with a 2x4, attempting to grab a knife & bottle, charging, leg strikes, rushing at the officer with a knife held in a stabbing motion, rip car door open, swinging arms, raising fists, kicking, grabbing at the officer/officers clothing, throwing objects, charging, kicking, striking, elbowing, forcing silent patrolman open and attempting to grab patrol rifle, vehicle, clenching fists and attempting to bite.

This is the second year of data collection for Assault Peace Officer. At this time there are no obvious trends. In general, lower custodial arrests and more offenders out of custody could correspond with this increase. There was a small increase in spit hood and restraint chair options used in 2020 which can be attributed to officers being more sensitive to bodily fluid and using the spit mask to limit the spread of COVID.

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Conclusion

Upon completing the Use of Force Analysis of the Lethbridge Police Service use of force activities, professional standards (complaints), policies and procedures and a review of assault on police officer data, the following were noted:

Training:

Previous trend of possible CEW over dependence was identified and addressed in training. In 2020, the CEW usage decreased even though the Use of Force incidences increased.

Ground fighting

Training Unit continues to utilize control tactics training through Setcan and Gracie Police Officer Survival Tactics as a method of gaining subject compliance.

Policy review:

Unintentional Discharge - Due to increased number of UD's enhanced safety protocols for training were implemented.

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Conclusion

Use of Force Complaints:

There were four use of force complaints investigated by Professional Standards in 2020. Three complaints involved Empty Hand techniques, two on the street and one in STHF. There was also one complaint of alleged excessive use of force. All four complaints are still being investigated.

Equipment Upgrades:

- ❖ Firearms changed from Sig Sauer to Glock
- ❖ Lights were placed on all LLP shotguns and carbines for patrols. Glock pistols were issued with lights. Low light training was incorporated into in service training in 2020 by providing a night shoot module.
- ❖ Load bearing vests – new vests are load bearing and some equipment can be carried on the vest (not intermediate or lethal options)

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Conclusion

The Training Unit utilizes Reasonable Officer Response to assist in providing a professional and defensible use of force framework. This is premised on basing the use of force on the standard of “objective reasonableness”.

The Police Service recognizes the need for highly trained and responsive officers. Moving forward, the Training Unit will continue to provide training to meet and exceed provincial training standards and training needs identified through patterns or trends.

School shootings and terrorist activity tragically continue to play a role in world events. The Training Unit will continue to focus on multiagency Active Shooter Scenario Training in future training. Throughout the year the Training Unit uses scenario based training from actual situations, use of force reports and calls as a learning tool to enhance members skill set and build self-confidence. The Training Unit uses these tools to build on use of force techniques, incident assessment, situational awareness, threat identification, disengagement and de-escalation.

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